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Justice

International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union
(ILGWU)

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Justice (Vol. 2, Iss. 20)

International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU)

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International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, ILGWU, labor unions, clothing workers, textile workers, garment workers, garment industry, New York, United States

Comments

Justice was the official publication of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union ILGWU from 1919 to 1995. Editions of *Justice* were published in English, Italian, Spanish, and Yiddish. When compared side by side, the content of some of these different editions of *Justice* shows significant differences. This is the English-language edition of *Justice*.

"My righteousness
has I & a 14
fast, and will
not let it go."
— Job. 27(A)

JUSTICE

"We ought to
be just even to
our enemies."
— Pres. Wilson.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS UNION.

VOL. II. No. 29.

New York, Friday, May 14, 1920.

Price: 2 Cents

Momentous Decisions Reached at Our Convention in Chicago

Resolutions of Epoch-Making Significance Before Our Convention.—Debs Named as Standard Bearer in Campaign.—Amnesty for Political Prisoners Demanded.—Unanimous Vote for Federation of the Entire Needle Industry, Establishment of Co-operative Stores and Factories, and Affiliation with European garment workers' organizations.—Other Resolutions of Far-Reaching Significance Adopted.

The fifteenth biennial convention of our International which opened in Chicago on May 3 is proceeding with its epoch-making program. Outside of the industrial legislation for 150 thousands workers in the ladies' garment industry, the program includes a wide range of far-reaching proposals for the amalgamation of the entire needle industry, affiliation with foreign tailor groups and union ownership of factories and stores, as well as resolutions condemning the administration's policy of repression, calling for the release of political and class war prisoners and demanding the repeal of the espionage law.

A storm of applause and cheers were aroused by resolutions endorsing Eugene V. Debs as Socialist party candidate for President, demanding the release of class-war prisoners and the repeal of all repressive legislation and the restoration of freedom of action to organized labor. Introduced by New York Cutters' Local 10, the resolution urges the support of Debs by the International, after reciting the failure of the present administration to live up to American traditions and its interference with "Labor's inalienable right to strike" and points to Debs as the "Old standard bearer of industrial and political working-class emancipation." The resolution in full reads:

"Whereas, we are faced today with the 1920 presidential campaign, the outcome of which is of tremendous importance to the life of the labor movement of this country.

"Whereas the present administration, through its brutal suppression of free speech, free press, free assemblage and the inalienable right to strike, and through the perpetration of the espionage act, has clearly demonstrated to the workers of this country what they may expect of election-day promises of the so-called Liberals of the old capitalist parties and

"Whereas the Socialist party is putting forth as its candidate an old standard bearer of industrial and political working class emancipation whose readiness to sacrifice and suffer for these ideals makes him the noblest leader of the proletarian army, which stands for a just and better future, and,

"Whereas at this particular time he symbolizes the tortured

victims of the terror reign of the present administration.

"Therefore, be it Resolved, that the 15th biennial convention of the I. L. G. W. U. heartily indorses the candidacy of Eugene Victor Debs for the presidency of the United States on the Socialist party ticket, and be it

"Further Resolved, that we pledge our moral and financial aid in support of the campaign."

The following telegram was sent to Debs and Kate Richards O'Hare to their places of confinement in Atlanta and Jefferson City:

"The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union in convention assembled at Chicago, sends you their hearty greetings and a message of love and encouragement in the full consciousness that

your martyrdom and sufferings are but great contribution to the cause of labor's final emancipation."

Some of the other resolutions that were adopted are as follows: Oppositor to government by injunction, requesting that the A. F. of L. take similar action.

The repeal of repressive legislation, the freedom of political prisoners, the restoration of free press and free speech and the right of peaceful assembly, otherwise, a general strike of the International in protest.

Reaffirmation of the Declaration of Independence, declaring that "Whenever any form of government becomes destructive" of the fundamental liberty "it is the right of the people to alter or

abolish it and to institute a new government."

The defeat of all assemblymen who voted for the final ouster of the assemblymen.

A telegram condemning the Lusk and Fearon bills now before Governor Smith of New York State was passed upon and sent to the Governor. The message asks the Governor to veto the bills in the name of "American principles."

The message to Governor Smith, approved after brief comment, is as follows:

"The International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, an organization composed of 150,000 men and women, 90,000 of whom are residents of New York State, in convention at Chicago, unanimously adopted a resolution urging you in most emphatic manner to repudiate the attempt of all enemies of American liberties, institutions and organized labor to strangle education, mutilate representative government and create a nest of spies in the attorney-general's office at the expense of the taxpayers of the State of New York. We request you to veto the vicious Bourbon and reactionary Lusk and Fearon bills."

Atrocities perpetrated against the Jews in the Ukraine have aroused our delegates at the Convention to a high pitch of feeling. Speakers recounting cases of pogroms in that unhappy region have drawn upon the feelings of the delegates to the International convention so much so that substantial moral and financial support will be given the victims of the reactionary Ukraine regime.

Amid a great show of enthusiasm and by an overwhelming vote, in two instances unanimous, the convention of the International Tuesday noon adopted proposals for the federation of the entire American needle industry, affiliation with an international organization of tailors and workers' ownership and control of shops and stores in the industry.

Thus the wave of revolutionizing the needle industry, as far as the International was concerned, reached its crest today. The convention presented an inspiring picture, with the final emancipation of the working class from wage slavery making a very vivid background.

H. Lefkowitz, chairman of the committee on relations with na-

(Continued on Page 3)

UNITY HOUSE REGISTRATION IN FULL SWING

After June 1st Members of All International Locals Will Be Admitted. — All's Ready for the Opening. — Talk of Changing the name of Unity House.

Registration for vacations at the Unity House opened on Monday, May 10, and during the first three days hundreds of members of Local 25 registered for their vacation.

The Unity House Committee has decided to extend the hospitality to the Unity House to members of all International locals. Up to June 1, however, only members of Local 25 will be admitted. This means that if any of the wait-makers fail to register for their summer vacation at the Unity House before June 1, they will no longer be given preference over members of other locals and will have to wait for their turn.

The Unity House committee cannot urge the members of Local 25 too strongly to register at once and avoid annoyance and disappointment.

To facilitate registration the committee has made arrangement whereby members of the Wait-makers' Union may register not only at the headquarters, 16 West 21st Street, but also at any of the following branch offices: Bronx Office: 1258 Boston Road, Harlem Office: 165 East 121st Street, Down Town Office: 129 Spring St., Brooklyn Office: 69 Graham Ave., Brownsville Office: 229 Sacckman Street.

Owing to the increased amount

of work to be done the membership of the Unity House Committee has been considerably increased. To a reporter of 'Justice' a member of the Unity House Committee said as follows:

"Everything is ready for the opening of our Unity House. Our manager, Mr. Lamport, will see to the finishing touches. What we are concerned with is to direct the registration of our members in the best possible way. We should like to distribute the attendance at the Unity House uniformly over the entire vacation period. We are anxious to have all our members benefit by our summer resort, but we cannot afford to drag out the registration indefinitely. We therefore have decided to set June 1 as the limit of time when only members of Local 25 will be admitted. We have arranged registration facilities in all of our branches. Now it is up to the members themselves. If they daily and neglect to register we refuse to be responsible for failure to accommodate them later on."

There is talk among the wait-makers of changing the name of this summer resort. Many of them object to the word "House," since the unity estate consists of 12 equally good and comfortable houses. Suggestions from the readers are in order.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK

The Socialist Convention

THE eighth national convention of the Socialist Party opened last Saturday morning, May 8, at the Finnish Socialist Hall, 127th Street and Fifth Avenue. The convention, which will nominate candidates for President and Vice President for the Socialist Party campaign of 1920, is made up of 163 delegates, as well as fraternal delegates and representatives from foreign language branches. It is the party's first Presidential nominating convention since the United States went into the war and the third national gathering since the nominating convention of 1916.

Morris Hillquit gave the keynote address as chairman of the opening session. "The only active and organized force in American politics that combats reaction and oppression, that stands for the larger masses of the workers, and for a social order of justice and industrial equality, is the Socialist Party," he declared. "Not as a party of mere patch work reform, or yet as a party of sham revolutionary phrases," concluded Hillquit, "but as a militia of Social Democratic party, firmly rooted in the working class movement, and operating on a program of education and organization and training in the economic and political struggle."

In his address to the convention Hillquit just touched on the question of the political awakening in the organized labor movement when he said that "the attempts of some advanced organized workers to form an independent political party of labor on a national scale has so far foundered upon a rock of conservatism and narrow-mindedness of the American Federation leadership." Against this he presented the Socialist Party as the "only active and organized force in American politics that combats reaction and oppression, that stands for the larger masses of the workers and for a social order of justice and industrial equality."

The official beginning of the Socialist national campaign was made last Sunday at a huge mass meeting in Madison Square Garden. Hillquit characterized the work of our Administration at Washington in the following words:

"The Democratic administration has forcibly overthrown the cornerstone of the republic, the freedom of press, speech, and assembly, and has substituted for it the rule of the club and the jail. It has turned over democracy into a virtual autocracy and has revolutionized all departments of the federal government, fact if not in name. It has abolished the Department of State and created a Department of Propaganda in favor of every reactionary movement abroad, with a Bureau of Interment instead of the former Bureau of Passports. It has converted the Postoffice Department into an index expurgatorius. It has remodelled the Department of Labor by substituting a Bureau of Jailing and Injunction for the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration, and a Bureau of Deportation for the Bureau of Immigration. It has abolished the Department of Justice in charge of an attorney general and has created a Depart-

ment of Panic and Hysteria in charge of an alarmist general."

Eugene V. Debs, of course, was announced as party nominee for President. "It is true that our candidate is in jail," Hillquit said, "but millions of citizens know that for the good of humanity and the country he should be free. The candidates of the old parties are all at large, but millions of citizens feel that for the good of mankind some of them should be locked up."

Among the other speakers at the meeting were Algron Lee, Seymour Steadman and Victor L. Berger.

A committee of five to confer in Washington this week with Attorney General Palmer and Secretary Tumulty in an attempt to obtain amnesty for political prisoners was appointed by the Convention. The committee is headed by Seymour Steadman and Morris Hillquit. It also includes George E. Roever, Otto Braustetter and Freda Hogan. The delegates will present a memorial to Palmer on Friday asking for the amnesty, and the next day Tumulty, private secretary to the President, will be asked to transmit the same memorial to President Wilson.

A draft of platform and principles was submitted by Hillquit and there is little doubt but that it will be adopted by the Convention. Considerable opposition to this platform was raised by the Illinois delegation. It was moved as an amendment that the platform be referred to a new committee. The vote, which followed, resulted in the defeat of the Illinois faction.

Some of the points in the platform submitted by Hillquit are as follows:

The constitutional freedom of speech, press and assembly should be restored by repealing the Espionage law and all other repressive legislation, and by prohibiting the executive usurpation of authority.

The power of the courts to restrain workers in their struggles against employers by the writ of injunction or otherwise, and their power to nullify Congressional legislation should be abrogated.

All business vitally essential for the existence and welfare of the people, such as railroads, express service, steamship lines, telegraph, mines, oil wells, power plants, elevators, packing houses, cold storage plants and all industries operating on a national scale, should be taken over by the nation.

All publicly owned industries should be administered jointly by the Government and representatives of the workers, not for revenue or profit, but with the sole object of securing just compensation and humane conditions of employment to the workers and efficient and reasonable service to the public.

Congress should enact effective laws to abolish child labor, to fix minimum wages, based on an ascertained cost of a decent standard of life, to protect migratory and unemployed workers from oppression, to abolish detective and strike-breaking agencies and to

establish a shorter work day in keeping with increased industrial productivity.

The Amalgamated Convention

THE fourth biennial convention of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers opened last Monday in Boston. Over 350 delegates representing about 300,000 workers from all clothing manufacturing centers of the United States and Canada are present at the Convention.

This convention follows six years of unusual achievements. It will "hear of the success of the forty-four-hour week and the organization of practically the entire industry," says an editorial in Advance, official organ of the Amalgamated. "With the organization of the industry no longer a paramount objective, problems of hours and wages alone are not enough to keep the spirit of organization vigorous and make for continuous progress," continues the editorial. Among the problems with which the Amalgamated Convention will deal are the proposals for various cooperative undertakings and the alliance of the labor organizations in the needle industry.

Revolution in Mexico

REPORTS from Mexico and the State Department at Washington show that the revolution in Mexico is spreading. President Carranza is reported to have fled from Mexico City, and forces commanded by Gen. Pablo Gonzales are preparing to establish a provisional government there. General Obregon, another leader of the movement against Carranza, is also expected to arrive in Mexico City. Obregon and Gonzales are far from being on friendly terms. The first news was that one not identified with the army would be selected Provisional President. An important development in the new situation is said to be the establishment of the Mexican constabulary as in the days of Diaz, when leaders were given absolute power in specified districts. Under this propaganda, it is reported, Francisco Villa, who has been in the background of the movement against Carranza, will be placed in charge of the constabulary in several states.

In the meanwhile American naval forces are in Mexican waters for the alleged purpose of protecting American citizens. It would perhaps be more correct to say that the American war vessels were sent to Mexico in order to protect the interests of American business.

In this connection it may be pertinent to note the reason given recently for the Senate delay in confirming Henry Morgenthau to be Ambassador to Mexico. Republican members of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations have decided that the nomination shall not be confirmed, for the present at least. The Senators feel that the Carranza Government would be bolstered up by such action of the United States, and they decided to wait for the establishment of a government more to their liking.

War on Russia

DESPITE the repeated declarations of the Allies to the contrary, Poland is now waging a war of aggression against Russia. Encouraged by French in-

trigue and armed with a huge equipment of American materials, Poland has ignored the changed policy of the Supreme Council and occupied Kiev. Poland has recently made large purchases of surplus American war materials, including locomotives.

The London Nation prints the following comment on this affair:

"The most anxious feature of this Russo-Polish business is that Poland has suddenly found a supporter in the United States. Congress has authorized the Polish government to 'purchase' American army stores, apparently to an unlimited amount, on six years' credit, and already free transport has been provided to carry locomotives, trucks, uniforms and food to Danzig."

"Thus America, which will do nothing to help the peaceful part of Europe in its economic trials, decides to back Poland in a Russian war much as we backed Denikin. Polish propaganda has evidently made the most of the ingenuous material of America public opinion. And yet the Polish 'peace' terms are by far the most predatory in the recent records of Europe. They claim the old frontiers of the Imperial Poland of 1772, though even now much of this country is still under Moscow."

Yet there were some people who were inclined to believe in the good faith of the Allies when they declared that their "ring of fire" and war against Russia failed. There were many people who hailed the new deceptions of the Allies to trade with Russia as the beginning of a new era. Their beliefs and hopes were groundless. The Allied Governments are determined to fight Russia to the bitter end. All their confessions and pious declarations are only sordid lies. Soviet Russia will not be let alone until the workers in the Allied countries will gain control over their governments.

Free Speech in the Steel Districts

FREE speech in this country is a legend. An illustration of this was furnished by the authorities of Duquesne, a small town near Pittsburgh. Last Sunday representatives of the American Federation of Labor and the National Civil Liberties Union attempted to hold a meeting. Repeated requests for a permit had been ignored by Mayor James S. Crawford of Duquesne. He invoked his ruling of one year ago that "Jesus Christ Himself could not hold a meeting in Duquesne." Six speakers, determined to test the constitutionality of the Mayor's arbitrary ruling, had scarcely risen to their feet when they were dragged down and hurried to jail. Fourteen men were arrested. State policemen, city troops, special mill guards are patrolling the city, defending it against the incursion of the constitutional rights.

SECURE BOUND VOLUMES OF "JUSTICE" FOR 1919

There are a limited number of bound volumes of "Justice" for 1919 for sale. The price of a volume is 3 dollars.

Copies may be secured at the General Office of the International.

R. Lieberman,
Manager.

IMPASSIONED DECISIONS REACHED BY OUR CONVENTION IN CHICAGO

(Continued from page 1)

tional and international garment workers' Unions, rose to report that his committee had found the recommendations of the general executive board of the International, favoring a "One Big Union" of all the unions in the needle industry, a very worthy proposition. More particularly, Lefkowitz urged the adoption of the following resolution, offered by Locals 15 and 25:

"Whereas, it is a fact that the strength of the workers depends upon their solidarity and co-ordination of action; and

"Whereas, at present we may expect a period of great strife and struggle in all of the industries, especially in the needle industries; and

"Whereas, the interests of all of the workers of the needle trade industries in the United States and Canada are similar and identical, and it will be possible to carry on much more efficient organization work if they will be united into one central body. Be it therefore

"Resolved, that this convention instructs the general executive board to call a conference of all of the national and international unions of the needle trade industries in the United States and Canada, without regard to their affiliation, for the purpose of forming the alliance for offensive and defensive purposes.

Organizations to be invited to the alliance will include the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the United Garment Workers' Union, the United Cloth Hat and Cap Workers of North America, the Journeymen Tailors and several other similar organizations.

Each of the organizations will be permitted, under the plan, to preserve its own autonomy. There will be no interference in internal affairs of any of the groups. The spirit which will imbue the alliance, however, is that of "The fight of one shall be the fight of all."

Warmth marked the reception which greeted the address of S. Yanofsky, editor of Justice, who, in tracing the forward moving action of the garment workers, pointed out that an alliance of all the trades in the needle industry is essential to the emancipation of the workers in that industry.

He described how epoch making would be the three great propositions confronting the convention of the Alliance, affiliation with foreign needle organizations and the ownership and operation by the workers of factories and stores in their own industry.

These would accomplish a peaceful revolution, which would be just as startling and just as revolutionizing as any plan by which power would be attempted to be wrested from the ruling class thru the use of violent means, Yanofsky continued.

Where would be the bosses of the needle industry in 10 years, he queried, if the plan of shop ownership and product distribution be made effective?

President Max Zaritsky of the Cloth Hat and Cap Makers' Union, in addressing the convention, declared that one needle trades' union was a necessity, pointing out how associations of manufacturers in the needle trades work together

during strikes. He predicted that a needle trades alliance would soon be a reality, and declared that the union's fight is not really against employers, but against the ignorance of the people.

The height of enthusiasm was reached when a vote was taken on union ownership of shops and factories. Delegates rose in their places, and practically in a unanimous voice decided that the time had come when the workers in their industry could show clearly that such a thing as management of industry was not foreign to them.

Immediate steps for the establishment of union owned factories and stores are called for in a report adopted today by the delegates to the convention of the International. Every member of the Union in the United States and Canada is to be assessed one dollar to provide the working fund for the establishment of the factories and retail establishment.

Schlesinger, Feinberg, Sigman and Yanofsky, spoke vigorously and at length in favor of the plan. Schlesinger declared that in other industries, such as mines and railroads, operators require tremendous capital, while in the garment trades men with only a handful of money have in time made great successes.

"When the shorter working week was established last year," President Schlesinger said, "we naturally believed that the season would be lengthened. Yet the season has been shortened, because big profits piled on by manufacturers and retailers have caused the public to stop buying. It would be worth while opening our own plants if only for the single purpose of forcing them to adopt a more reasonable attitude. With our own factories we can demonstrate to employers that under proper conditions workers can produce as much in six and one-half or seven hours as they now can in eight and thus demonstrate to employers the advisability of the 40 hour week."

Feinberg in a stirring talk declared that if the workers want what they have been demanding for years they must start at once. "We can finance this proposition ourselves," he declared, "which answers the argument that banks might not make loans. We will not operate our shops for profit, but rather to show the manufacturers and the world in general that we can have sanitary conditions, reduce working hours, pay representative wages, and with all this self-governments for less than present prices and thus reduce the cost of living to the people." He declared that this was the most forward step the union could take.

To combat profiteering by garment manufacturers, the convention called upon its general executive board to incorporate in every agreement between the organization and employers a clause giving the former a voice in guiding production and sales prices, with the view toward regulating the market price.

By a unanimous vote they adopted the recommendation of the resolutions committee for the establishment of the 40-hour, five-day week in every branch of the garment trade and called upon

the incoming general executive board to effect speedily the shorter work week.

Resolutions for the complete establishment of the week work system in the industry and equal pay for equal work for men and women were overwhelmingly adopted.

Agreements prohibiting strikes by unions affiliated with the International are banned, in a resolution introduced in the opening session of the second week of the convention. It is proposed that the convention go on record "as opposed to such agreements and instruct the executive board" accordingly.

The A. F. of L. was called upon to establish immigration bureaus in every American and Canadian port in order to direct the destiny of immigrant laborers and prevent them from falling into the hands of American employers, who might try to force down the standard of labor.

Included among the proposals adopted by the convention was one extending the educational activity of the organization. The work will be conducted by five members of the general executive board. The board will also consider mergers of the International' educational work with that of the United Labor Education Council of New York and the United Cloth Hat and Cap Makers of North America. That the Rand School of Social Science should become an agency for the work was also suggested or consideration by the general executive board.

GLIMPSES FROM OUR "SPECIAL" TO CHICAGO

By S. YANOFSKY

Chicago, May 2

We are now on the eve of the convention. There are only a few hours left. Nearly all of our delegates are here, and some of them are already busy at work, having what is called in the political lingo, caucus meetings.

Yes, tomorrow, May 3, at 10 o'clock in the morning President Schlesinger will open the fifteenth biennial convention of our International.

But outside of our delegates there are many invited guests. There will be Lawrence Darrow, Peter Sigman, Naved of the A. F. of L. The various Chicago locals have decided to celebrate tomorrow in honor of the opening of the convention. All the shops in the ladies' garment industry will be closed. In large masses the workers will file into the huge Ashland Auditorium. Then the Chicago "Forward" has decided to welcome the delegates by inviting them to a theatre party to be followed by a banquet. I take it for granted that the Chicago Joint Board will not miss this opportunity and arrange another banquet for the delegates.

But all these things are yet to be. They still belong to the realm of expectations, and in due time I hope to share with the readers all these experiences.

For the present I wish to communicate some of my impressions on the special train to Chicago.

Brother Finkelstein has undertaken to describe the leave taking of the delegation. I trust he has not failed to describe the enthusiasm that prevailed among the delegates as well as of the hundreds who came to take leave of them. I only want here to tell of some of my impressions on the trip to Chicago.

The board has been instructed to consider the establishment of an annual fund through arrangement with the Rand School for the education of a number of union members. The purpose is to provide for adequate leadership from the ranks of the organization.

The A. F. of L. will be urged to establish a national labor university, modeled after the famous Ruskin College of England.

The board was ordered to study the problem of an increase in the per capita tax in order to create a general strike fund and report its findings to the next convention.

The following contributions were made:

To the Philadelphia Labor Temple, \$5,000 for the purchase of shares; Ferrer Modern School at Steelton, \$300; Immigrant Aid and Sheltering Society, \$5,000; Naturalization Aid League, \$500.

A cablegram from Warsaw was read announcing a strike of 10,000 Polish tailors for whom financial aid was requested. Assistance was voted the port and terminal workers on strike in New York. The Workers' Central Defense Union of Chicago and the committee of deportees on Doe Island also appealed for funds.

The report of the law committee was made this afternoon in which revisions in the constitution of the organization were suggested.

Telegrams of felicitation were sent to the Socialist party convention in New York and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, in convention in Boston.

I have done a considerable bit of traveling but never have I experienced such a trip.

When you come into a Pullman the atmosphere is stifling and cold. But that was not the case now. The six or seven Pullman cars occupied by our delegation were transformed as if by magic into an intimate, cozy home. One felt as he was in his own home.

I walked through the cars and I was curious to find a single delegate who felt uncomfortable or alone. I did not find such.

Most of our delegates have occupied their time with song and play. The Italian delegates went from car to car and they have done their very best to entertain the crowd.

After a few hours and our crowd began to feel as if they could have another supper. Soon you beheld a remarkable activity on the part of all present. They were opening bundles, and there appeared before your view roasted chickens without number, and drinks which are strictly forbidden. After this repeat the spirit was roused considerably. Songs and toasts in all languages, in Yiddish, Russian, Italian followed.

I had imagined that we would occupy ourselves on the train with discussing "politics." But there was not a trace of it. An outside person could never have imagined that these people are the leaders of a powerful organization. They would rather be taken on Friday evening, April 30, as children, grown-up children who are zesty and happy and care free. It was late in the night that the crowd went to bed, and some of them have continued their fest until the small hours.

(To Be Continued Next Week)

JUSTICE

A Labor Weekly.

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A. BAROFF, Sec'y-Treas.
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EDITORIALS

AMERICAN "FREEDOM" VS. RUSSIAN "DESPOTISM"

Leon Trotsky, in an interview with John Clayton, the correspondent for the Chicago "Tribune" is reported to have said that "the entire economic life must be militarized before a communistic society is established." "This militarization is the more important," he continued, "because we have undertaken to mobilize a society on a large scale, with the solution of problems which call for the employment of a large number of people."

The "Tribune" therefore draws the conclusion that the most ruthless despotism, a despotism unprecedented in the history of the world, now reigns in Russia. The former despotic rules in Russia and Germany are child's play compared to the present despotism, and the American worker is asked whether he would be willing to give up his freedom for the despotism of Russia.

The "Tribune" asks: "How would the American, skilled workers or farmers, or day laborers like such a system? How would they like to be mobilized and regimented just like soldiers and be sent to dig a canal in the tropics, or work on the lower Mississippi, or mine coal in Alaska. Compare Citizen No. 6,417,802 will report on May 15th, at 5 o'clock in the morning, with his tools at the Mobilization Center No. 11,708, under the Mobilization Order No. 702. This is under the order of the Irrigation Command, or Economic Army, Proletarian Republic of America."

This is doubtless a terrifying picture of despotism reigning in Russia. And yet we are not at all certain whether the American skilled mechanic, the farmer and day laborer will be frightened by this picture of the proletarian republic. It is very probable that the American-proletarians should reply to the query of the "Tribune" as follows: Are we really free in this bourgeois republic? Are we not compelled to toil where and when capital forces us to under the danger of starvation for us and our families? Does not capital mobilize its armies of labor just as Trotsky is reported to do, although not as frankly as Trotsky?

The American workers can rightly argue: All your phrases about freedom are only soap bubbles. They are only unctuous hypocritical gestures. Where is our freedom? Are the workers free in Kansas where strikes are prohibited? Can the miners boast of freedom when they were driven back to the mines by injunctions? What do the steel workers in Pennsylvania and Virginia know about freedom?

The "Tribune" has a remarkable audacity when it contemptuously speaks of Russian despotism

and ask the American "free" workers if they would like to live under a similar system.

At the same time the "Tribune" brazenly lies when it declares that all this is done in Russia according to the express desire of the present rulers, Lenin and Trotsky. This is a rank falsehood. Lenin and Trotsky and their entire Red Army could and would never effect this "militarization" without the support of the entire Russian people. And if the Russian people agree to this because they regard this as a necessary condition for the introduction of a new life, then there can be no talk of despotism.

No matter what objections the freedom loving people may have against Trotsky's plan of the militarization of labor, this cannot be done by such a paper as the Chicago "Tribune" which represents no other than the capitalist interests and which could not exist for one day without the disgraceful coercive measures. And it could with certainty be said that if the workers had the choice between the "freedom" of the bourgeoisie American republic and the despotism of a proletarian American republic, they would, it appears to us, be very foolish if they had not with all their might turned to the latter and contemptuously rejected the former. It is much better to live under an open and honest despotism with equal opportunities for all rather than under a mask of freedom which is really intended only for a few while the entire mass of people are only listening to the empty sounds which only serve to enslave the people.

But the "Tribune" should not really between the conditions of the Russian peasant and worker for whose freedom it seems to be concerned so much. We can assure the "Tribune" that the Russian peasant knows far better how to guard and defend his freedom than do the free Americans, even when Lenin and Trotsky like to act as despots. Russia, which has so thoroughly rid itself of Capitalism, could certainly rid itself of Leninism and Trotskyism if they will prove a danger to human freedom, as the "Tribune" imagines. We would advise this organ of "freedom" to leave Russia alone and observe what is taking place in "free" America. It would then perhaps realize that the danger of despotism in America is much more acute than it is in Russia. The real difference between the proletarian Russian republic and the American bourgeois republic is that while in Russia the militarization of labor is yet a plan, in America it has long been practiced under the cloak of freedom. And while only a few months ago one could have objected against Russian Bolshevism for its suppression of political tendencies op-

posing the Soviet rule—now, after Victor Berger has been ousted of Congress and the five Socialists have been ousted from the Albany Assembly, after thousands of people are in prison for expressing opinions differing from those of the ruling class, no one can find the faintest cause for taunting the Russian "despots."

The bourgeoisie therefore cannot oppose the Russian Bolshevism on that score. They are doing the same things having no other basis for their acts than their base interests in contrast to pure, noble motives of the Russian leaders. Their hypocritical speeches of freedom are only intended to discredit Bolshevism and the entire present Russian regime. But these unctuous gestures only serve as effective propaganda for the cause of Russia. The Russian Bolsheviki and that despicable scoundrel who have freedom on their lips but who commit the most brutal and coercive deeds against freedom cannot be pronounced in the same breath.

OUR GREETINGS TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The convention of our International in Chicago sent hearty greetings to the Socialist Party convention in New York. The proposal to send felicitations was received by the delegates with great enthusiasm, and there is no doubt that the entire International will devote its energies for the triumph of the Socialist Party with the great Eugene V. Debs at its head. At a time when the Albany politicians have outlawed the Socialist Party all differences of opinions and doubts in the effectiveness of parliamentary struggles must give way to a wholehearted and vigorous support of its cause.

We on our part will do everything in our power in the forthcoming election to help toward the triumph of Socialism and the defeat of the sinister forces of reaction.

POLITICAL PARTY JURISDICTION NO PART OF TRADE UNION THEORY

The A. F. of L. does not assume political party jurisdiction over trade unionists, and before it could it must abandon guarantees to every individual member of organized labor and acquire new power from affiliates, said A. F. of L. Secretary Frank Morrison in a letter in which is stated the non-partisan political theory of the A. F. of L.

"The organized workers," said Secretary Morrison, "have consistently opposed the turmoil and distraction of partisan politics which would dilute—and in many cases has destroyed — militant trade unionism."

"Fourteen years ago (1906) the Minneapolis convention of the A. F. of L. declared:

"We are not a political party. We disclaim political party jurisdiction. We set up no claim of authority over the political acts of our members. We could not, if we would, for all the political authority we might assume, violate the protection due every man from the union which grants him his card."

"If we are to create new tests of regularity in unionism, we must first obtain new power from the affiliated bodies which make up the Federation."

"The A. F. of L. has no authority to declare or suggest but the non-partisan political policy," continued Secretary Morrison. "Contrary action would do violence to the theory of voluntary action by wage earners which is constantly urged by the Federation and would annul the guarantee of political freedom that is assured every member of the Federation."

"This guarantee has grown out of the experience of the workers, expressed in their national and international union conventions, in their constitutions and by-laws and later re-expressed by delegates from these unions to the annual conventions of the A. F. of L."

"To say that it is time to make a change" while trade unionists insist on rigidly maintaining the economic character of their organizations, refuse to be told how to vote and decline to turn their union meetings into political can-

ces, is to ignore the first essentials of correct reasoning.

"In the light of history and facts, the claim that any individual trade unionist or group of trade unionists are responsible for the A. F. of L. non-partisan policy is mere assertion."

"Trade unionists are not impelled in their present course by sentiment of by a stubborn refusal to 'take the easiest way'."

"They reject sentiment when discussing plans to combat social injustice and their experience teaches them that there is no 'easy way' to right wrongs that only disappear after long and persistent agitation that eventually develops an enlightened public opinion."

THE JOINT BOARD OF SANITARY CONTROL BUYS OWN HOME

The Joint Board of Sanitary Control, which is at present at 31 Union Square, has for some time been handicapped by the insufficient space that it had for its various activities and by the high rent which the owners of the building compelled it to pay. The Medical and Dental Clinics, which are jointly with the Board, but which are managed and owned by the International locals, have also need for larger space to increase their usefulness.

Last week the Joint Board of Sanitary Control decided to buy a home for itself to house all the various activities, and have purchased a building at 131 E. 17th Street, a few houses from the corner of Irving Place and opposite Washington Irving High School. The building will be altered for the needs of the Board and an extension will probably be built by the Unions for the medical and dental branches.

In the new quarter, the medical as well as the dental work will be greatly extended. A large staff of medical men will be appointed to give real good medical and health service to the workers in the Union.

The house will be ready to move into on October 1st of this year.

Impressions of the Convention of Our International in Chicago

By S. YANOFSKY

The first week of the convention passed leaving behind a mental field of impressions, thoughts and feelings surging in my mind. During this week we had seven sessions, two banquets, one given by the Joint Board of all our locals in Chicago, and the second by the "Forward"; two theatre parties, one in the Jewish Theatre, under the management of Zuckersberg, Paley and Miss Rofallo, and the second in an English theatre, at the invitation of the "Forward." Then I had conversations with many delegates on subjects of interest. Out of the sea of impressions there are two events which particularly stand out.

I am referring to the two demonstrations in honor of the convention.

A large, beautiful hall, which is, by the way, owned by the Car-men's Union. This fact in itself makes one feel at home. You feel that you are in a hall built and managed by a sister organization. All delegates sit at their tables ready for their work.

Soon the orchestra begins to play. The workers of the ladies garment industry of Chicago begin to file into the hall. First the numerous workers of one local, then of a second and a third file into the hall carrying flowers and banners, under the strains of the Russian Hymn. The platform is virtually covered with flowers. The applause of the delegates is vigorous, long, hearty and enthusiastic. After half an hour the larger hall is filled to capacity and it seems as if the walls would burst asunder if another person would be admitted. And you marvel at the strength of the organization.

It was the most powerful and impressive speech without words with which the organized workers in our trades have greeted the convention of the International.

The second demonstration of power and beauty was when 50 automobiles lined up several blocks took the delegates on a sight seeing tour last Friday after the last session of the first week of the convention. The procession of the automobiles proceeded to Humboldt Park where the delegates stepped out on the green lawn and formed a large circle to be photographed. When you think that this circle represents 150,000 workers who in their turn represent about three quarters of a million of people depending upon them, the effect is staggering.

We were fully aware of the strength of our organization, and that is why we were not at all surprised at the hundreds of telegrams received by the convention from various parts of this country as well as Europe. They were all hearty felicitations. Neither were we surprised at the numerous committees which came from all parts of the United States to ask for help. Where else should they come if not to the powerful, invincible Union?

But soon the convention resolved itself into various committees and the actual, specific, practical work began. Moments of exalted enthusiasm and inspira-

tion are beautiful but they are not durable and do not always lead to actual accomplishments.

Let us therefore descend from the clouds in which we soared and briefly tell what the convention has hitherto achieved.

The first session, of course, was necessarily devoted to speech making. But the speeches truly expressed the spirit of our time and our International in particular.

The Mayor of Chicago was unable himself to address the convention, so he sent Mr. Miller, a prosecuting attorney. It was expected that Mr. Miller, as a prosecuting attorney, would deliver the usual, official speech of welcome. But even this official utilized the opportunity in declaring himself a friend of labor. In fact he spoke of the time when he would prosecute the real criminals who, of course, were not to be found in the ranks of labor and who now are unpunished. He also declared himself in opposition to the hysteria of fear. True Americanism, he said, provides equal rights for all American citizens, native and naturalized, as well as to the alien immigrants. He criticized Vice President Marshall who divided the American nation into the native Americans and the rest of the population. The chief problem that confronts the American people today, the official continued, is the relation between capital and labor. Naturally, Mr. Miller expressed the view that capital and labor could harmoniously live together. But no one could expect a revolutionary speech from an official of the Chicago administration.

The next speaker was John Walker, President of the Illinois State Federation of Labor. His speech was marked by its militant radicalism.

The boss, he said, never knows any limit for his profiteering and greed. And in order to combat such a wild animal we must use all weapons in our power. We must be organized both economically and politically; we must have our own press, because the press that we read is now in possession of our enemies. We are perfectly justified, he said, in using force to bring about our end and create a labor press and educate the workers to read it.

Oscar Nelson, Vice President of the Chicago Federation of Labor, Secretary Noels, Comrade Buck, editor of "The New Majority" and Clarence Darrow spoke in the same spirit.

Clarence Darrow made a particularly impressive speech. He apparently has forgotten his usual humor, his pessimism and fatalism. He confessed that he did not believe in political action but that now the time is ripe for it. He strongly advocated industrial and political action.

He also referred to the situation in Russia. He protested against America's interference in the affairs of Russia. Ninety per cent of the American people, he said, are against the policy of their government which should have recognized the government now in control in Russia.

Brief and hearty speeches were also given by Louis Schaefer, manager of the Chicago "Forward" and Peter Sissman, the attorney for the Chicago locals of the International.

This unusual session was closed by a brief and vigorous address by B. Schlesinger, President of the International. He recalled the year 1902 when he was for the first time a delegate from the Chicago Cloakmakers' Union to the convention of the International. The entire organization then consisted only of half the number of people that are present at this convention. And after 18 years of activity our organization is in the vanguards of the industrial world. And in the name of the International he thanks the Chicago delegation for the splendid welcome; in the name of all the delegates present, he thanks the larger membership for the impressive demonstration, which we will all long remember. He thanks all the speakers who greeted the convention, and concludes his address with the following words:

"Our last convention was held at the time of the great world war. We were told then that a new era will follow the war, that a new democracy will mark the end of the age of rulers and masters, and that new relations, based on mutual interests rather than on violence and fear will be brought about. But today instead of freedom and greater confidence of the masses we are face to face with reaction which threatens to rob our liberties. The voice of the new democracy is forgotten and suppressed while the voice of Palmer is heard all over the land."

"We did not come here on a pleasure trip. Yet the delegates during their stay in Chicago, will doubtless like to see everything that is worth while. As one who lived in Chicago and worked there many years, I would suggest that you not only visit the parks and boulevards, and observe the beautiful stores and palaces. There is a second Chicago which I would urge you to visit—the city of toil and destitution. Over against the wealth and the beautiful boulevards there is the dirt of the stockyards, the dark and cheerless stretch of homes, striking contrast of our present life which is as compelling as the contrast presented in the great industrial centers of production for profit in the east, west, south and north — a contrast of the terrible inequality, which the labor movement is trying with all its strength to abolish."

"Then there is yet another Chicago which is known for its inspiring humane activity, for its urgent insight. There is the universal known Hull House, there are the universities, libraries and museums. I hope that the delegates will not miss the rare opportunity to visit those places and to enrich their impressions."

"We are gathering here today for a very serious purpose. We are going to legislate, in the industrial sense, for 150 thousand workers upon whom not less than a million people depend with their livelihood and who constitute

the spinal cord of one of the most important industries in the country. We came here to strengthen our position, to learn from our experience and to make plans for the next two years. It is a great and serious task and the hearty welcome which was given us by our brothers and sisters from Chicago will serve as a tremendous stimulus for our work, will infuse fresh courage and will create stronger ties with the workers in Chicago and the entire state of Illinois."

The session finally closed when General Secretary Ab. Baroff read the following three telegrams:

Paris, France, May 2, 1920.

"B. Schlesinger! We are happy to send you our greetings to your biennial convention. Congratulations to the twentieth anniversary of the birth of your organization."

"PIERRE DUMA, Gen. Sec'y, Federation of Garment Workers of France."

Berlin, Germany, April 30, 1920. "To the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union."

"Dear Comrades:

"We have had the honor to greet your president, Comrade Schlesinger, while in Berlin. We listened with great respect to what he had to say about your organization and about everything it had accomplished with regard to wages and working conditions in your industry. Your organization is doubtless a model union for all the garment workers' organizations in the world, both in regard to its large membership as well as in its spirit and achievements."

"Our Union although it existed for some time marks its real progress since our recent revolution which brought with it freer relations both in the political and economic sense. Our workers were so poorly paid and so indifferent to our organization that no matter how much time and energy we expended in bringing them in the ranks of our organization we met with no success. But the terrible living conditions compelled to join our Union in the tens of thousands. Our organized workers have always regarded themselves as citizens of the world and they maintained friendly relations with America in the past. These relations were not ruptured by the murderous slaughter of nations. We hope that the working class in all countries will make such future catastrophes impossible. No bloody wars will ever break our friendly relations between the workers of our country and yours. We also hope that your organization will be represented at the coming congress of the garment workers in Copenhagen."

"Fraternally yours, "HEINRICH STRUMMER, General Secretary, Alliance of the Garment Workers of Germany."

New York, May 3, 1920. "International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Chicago, Ill. "Chairman and Delegates."

"I am happy to send you hearty greetings to your fifteenth biennial convention and congratulate

THE WEEKS' NEWS IN CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10

By I. LEWIN

The following are extracts from the Executive Board Minutes of the past week.

John Bianchi, No. 5161A appeared. Brothered Bianchi is in arrears one year and seven weeks and requests the Executive Board to be given a continuous account as he was ill for the last six months and was unable to pay dues. Upon motion his request was granted.

Harry Levenson, No. 1007 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Settle with being stayed in on Saturday afternoon, April 24, 1920, at the house of the Koenig Dress Co., 42 W. 17 St. Brother Settle found him there at 12:25 P. M. Brother Levenson states that in this house the people start in to work at 8:15 A. M., and quit at 12:15 P. M. on Saturdays and that it took him a few minutes to wash up. He was instructed by the Executive Board that he will have to quit at 12 o'clock sharp on Saturdays in the future and the case was dismissed.

Joseph Potash, No. 7742 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Sosen with working for time and a half-for over-time at the house of Lustberg & Lipschitz, 129 W. 27 St. A collection of \$21.25 difference in pay was made. Brother Potash admits to the charge and upon motion a fine was imposed upon him.

Julius Potash, No. 7744 appeared on summons, charged with failing to take out a working card for the house of Alper Bros., 153 W. 27th St., for over one year's time; also, with requesting a cutter by the name of Alex Levitt, No. 7970 to stay in on Saturday afternoon to finish a certain lot of work. Brother Potash denies that he ever asked any cutter to stay in on Saturday afternoon as he himself works until 12 o'clock. As to failing to secure a working card, he states that he was under the impression that a foreman did not need one. Upon motion a fine was imposed.

Jacob Sharashoff, No. 6833 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Settle with being a member of the firm of the See & Zee Dress Co., 1 E. 17 St. Brother Settle presented a letter from our lawyer in which he informs us that after investigating the corporation papers of the above named firm, he found that Brother Sharashoff is Secretary to the corporation. Brother Sharashoff was instructed by the Executive Board that either he will have to resign by Saturday, May 8, 1920, or he will be expelled from our Union; and that he is to hire a cutter by Monday, May 10, 1920.

The splendid achievements of the I. L. G. W. U. I am certain that you will continue your progress with renewed vigor, and your organization will grow ever stronger, and your work and aspirations for a better world will ultimately be realized. I congratulate you again and wish you success in all your future undertakings.

"R. GURKIN, Chairman,
United Hebrew Trades."

Yes, this was a great day in the history of the International. But the days that followed were just as important as we will see in the following articles.

George Chanken, No. 5347 appeared on summons, charged by Business Agent Wilder with having worked on Saturday afternoon for the house of Seiner Company, 692-5th Ave. Brother Chanken admits to the charge of having stayed in on Saturday afternoon, but states that he did so not to do any cutting but to fit out a garment on a figure and that he was ignorant of the fact that he was committing a violation. Upon motion a fine was imposed.

Frank Marcus, No. 6132 appeared on summons, charged by Brother Isidore Scheinberg, No. 5482 with acting in a manner un-

becoming a Union man as he threatened him to tell the firm for which they are both employed that he, Scheinberg, carried out pattern styles to a rival concern. Brothers Abe Oken, No. 15196 and Sol Gellinson, No. 5470, co-workers in this shop, appeared as witnesses for Scheinberg. Brother Marcus claims that during the heat of an argument, he did mention to Brother Scheinberg the fact that he carried out patterns but at no time did he mention that he would go to the boss or that he went to the boss. Brothers Marcus and Scheinberg were both admonished by the Chairman of the Executive Board and requested to stay and work together in peace and harmony and that in the future such fights shall not be tolerated by the Union. The case was dismissed.

Isidore Norman, an excommunicant, appeared. Brother Norman was called out on strike from the Louis of Wile & Wile, 35 E. 31 St., in January, 1919. He was then a dropped member. After filing application for reinstatement at that time, he appeared before the Executive Board on May 8, 1919, and requested that as he had already paid in \$20 on reinstatement in the year of 1916 which was forfeited, that the Executive Board instruct the Secretary to credit the \$20 to his account, which request was granted. He paid in additional \$16, making it in all a total of \$36. He now wants to be exempted from payment of the one year's back dues and assumes that since he is a reinstated member is obliged to pay. Upon motion his request was denied.

SALEST POINTS IN THE REPORT OF THE G. E. B.

(Continued from Last Week)

"Local No. 48 has likewise conducted during the last two years in extensive grocery co-operative business with three stores in various parts of New York City, representing an investment of \$85,000. They have a motor truck of their own which delivers the purchases made by the members to their homes."

The fight of the Dress and Waist Makers of New York for the 44-hour week and other betterments recited in the report, resulted in a considerable disruption to the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association, which opposed them. The strike of January, 1919, following a great mass meeting in Madison Square Garden "was by far the bitterest in the history of the local."

"Reference to tell of this strike, mainly a fight for principle, the report says:

"The tens of thousands of women workers fought with indefatigable courage and self-devotion the battle for their rights and for the standing of their organization. It would be impossible to recite the events of that strike within the brief space of this report. Suffice it to say that no less than 9,500 arrests were made for the crime of peaceful picketing."

"This marvellous fight has added another glorious chapter to the history of the working women organized under the banner of our union. The remarkable Monday morning picketing demonstrations aroused the entire city and directed the attention of the country to the issues of our contest. The conflict soon developed into a test of endurance—a test which threatened very soon to destroy the production of the entire season and to wipe out numerous firms, together with their business."

"After the strike was in progress for three weeks a large number of dress and waist manufacturers withdrew from the association and with a great many heretofore-independent dress firms organized a separate association of dress manufacturers. This new association, very soon after its formation, entered into an agreement with the union, conceding practically every demand of the workers, including the 44-hour week."

The jobbers in the dress trade also organized themselves into an association an designed an agreement with the Union for all contributors, and also conceded every demand of the workers. The fight thereupon narrowed down to the waist industry, which was controlled

by the Dress and Waist Manufacturers' Association. With the aid of all our New York locals and the locals outside of New York, the International raised a big defense fund and stood ready to continue the strike, even into the next season, if necessary, until the demands of the girls were won."

"At the end of nine weeks (toward the end of March), after an attempt made by Dr. W. J. Schitelin and Henry Moscovitz, we were brought together with the manufacturers and the conferences were again begun. On the 7th of April an agreement was reached which terminated the protracted contest."

"The workers won the point limiting the time for review of discharge cases to not more than 72 hours, together with the 44-hour week, increase in wages, and other objects sought in their original demands. The workers of several firms which had chosen to withdraw from the association rather than to give in to the union still remained outside, and against those the union was forced to keep up individual strikes. Others gave up their factories in New York and opened shops in small country towns."

"Thus, this memorable fight—a fight for a principle—came to an end. If it had not been for the undebatable obstinacy and bitterness of the employers, the controversy could have ended either in conference or during the early stages of the strike. The hundreds of thousands of dollars which the strike cost and the privations were not in vain, however. The girls administered a costly lesson to the members of the association, and it is to be hoped that in the future the employers in the waist and dress trade will consider many times before again plunging the industry into a bitter contest which can be settled by peaceful means through a display of a spirit of conciliation and understanding."

A contrasting picture to this is contained in the report, covering the activities of the Children's Dress Manufacturers' Association for the 44-hour work week, for increase in wages, three legal holidays with pay and for union shops. After a series of conferences with the association a

settlement was reached, the Union gaining all it demanded."

Continuing, the report says: "During the summer of 1919 a number of members of the association had taken advantage of the non-strike clause in the agreement and endeavored by all means to prevent the union from organizing the non-union workers in their shops. This lack of good faith on the part of the members of the association created a feeling of antagonism which resulted in the abrogation of the agreement. When Local No. 50 was informed by the association that it had instructed its manager not to attend any longer to complaints filed by the union, the local began immediately to deal with each member of the association individually. The association thereupon proceeded to obtain an injunction against the union, prohibiting it from doing organizing work in their shops. The injunction was dismissed by the courts in January, 1920."

"Meanwhile, a demand for new increases in wages had become general in the children's dress industry, and this demand was granted in all the independent shops. In the association shops the union pursued the policy of dealing with the individual employers and was scoring considerable success. The association subsequently changed front and insisted upon conferring with the union. Upon the advice of President Schlesinger such conferences were begun and on January 7 a settlement with the association was arrived at, which included the following points:

- "1. All members of the association must maintain union shops.
- "2. Six legal holidays with pay.
- "3. A flat increase of \$3 per week to all the workers, and a definite minimum scale to be introduced in the industry not later than August, 1920."

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NOW PLAYING

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THE STAGE

By Frances Robbins

"MARTINIQUE"

"Whose child is whose?" In the town of St. Pierre, such a question is not uncommon, judging from the situations in "Martinique," now playing at the Eltinge Theatre. We frankly confess that the various family complications had us puzzled and it was not until the close of the first act that we found the answer.

The island of Martinique is part of the French West Indies. Unusually colorful, balmy in climate, peopled by a hot-blooded, temperamental mixture of races, this spot makes an ideal setting for a romance of the 40's.

Lawrence Kyrle, the author, has made the most of his background and types, and although at times the play is slightly overdone, verging on the emotional melodrama, he has nevertheless managed to retain much of the zestful atmosphere.

"Martinique" calls itself a romance, and a romance it is—not our modern idea of romance, perhaps, but the sort that thrilled the novel readers of the last mid-century.

There is a heroine, a hero, and a bad, bad villain, a scheming woman and her scheming mother, and all the others who serve as the ingredients in the concocting of a romantic melodrama.

The heroine is Zabelle de Chauvalons, the daughter of Monsieur Chauvalons, who, before the story opens, had deserted his wife and his daughter, Marie-Clemence, and fled to Paris with his mistress. Zabelle has been brought up in a convent and it is not until she follows her father to Martinique, that she discovers that her father has died during his voyage and that she is an illegitimate child, scorned by Madame and Mademoiselle Chauvalons. Bewildered and heartbroken she is driven to the "quarter."

Zabelle longs to return to Paris, but without money she cannot go. In the house of the "quarter" she holds a "voodoo" to sell her beautiful Parisian clothes. Here she is often visited by Stephane Segineau, a convent-bred lad, brother to the Abbe, Pere Benedict. Zabelle had met Stephane for the first time when he had led her tenderly, from the home of her cruel relatives to the "quarter." Between them it had been love at first sight.

Zabelle does not know that a parent-made match had long been arranged between Stephane and Marie-Clemence, for the purpose of uniting the two families and retaining large tracts of land.

In a talk with Pere Benedict, after the Voodoo, Zabelle learns that he has that morning married the unhappy boy Stephane to Marie-Clemence. Zabelle is nearly mad with grief. To make matters worse, she is tormented by the attentions of Quembo, a wicked half-breed, who has the money and power to get what he wants. A thrilling moment is that in which Zabelle, crouching in a dark corner, thinks she hears Quembo's footsteps only to discover that it is her Stephane, come to her on his wedding night, unable to stay away from his beloved.

As he is leaving the next morning, he is shot and fatally wounded

by Quembo, crazed with jealousy. In his illness, Stephane is guarded by the treacherous Marie-Clemence, who under pretext of letting Zabelle see Stephane, allows her to enter the courtyard, where Quembo, with Marie's connivance is waiting to smother her. Her terrified cry of "Stephane, Stephane," reaches the sick chamber and he stumbles down the stairs and into her arms, dying happy in the knowledge that she loves him and that when he is gone, the de Chauvalons estates shall have a de Chauvalons heir.

Josephine Victor plays Zabelle with keen understanding and no heroics in the spots where it might so easily have occurred. Emmet Corrigan is dignified as Pere Benedict and Vincent Coleman youthful and appealing as Stephane. Helen Blais as Marie-Clemence and Ida Waterman as her mother are rather colorless as the cold and supercilious aristocrats of Martinique. Maidel Turner, Juliette Crosby, Margaret Bird and Marion Dyer, with their respective lovers are denizens of the quarter and make up in color what the nobler citizens lack. Paul Vancin, a young Parisian also in love with Zabelle is fairly well done by Fleming Warde. Arthur Hohl, as the brutal Quembo, looks wicked enough to make any heroine tremble. His guttural French-English speech is gratingly harsh, but carries out the illusion of the type.

If you like a play with atmosphere, action, thrills, and if you are not too critical of the acting—"Martinique" is the thing."

"PAGE MR. CUPID" OPENS MONDAY

Pearl Eaton and Helen Lewis have formed a stage partnership and will dance together in the new musical comedy "Page Mr. Cupid," which the Shuberts will produce next Monday.

ISADORA DUNCAN DANCERS

Isadora Duncan dancers will appear in farewell performances at Carnegie Hall, tonight and tomorrow.

The East Side Unity Center, P. S. 3, 1st Avenue near 4th Street, is holding an entertainment in the Auditorium of the school, on Saturday evening, May 22nd. The program will consist of two parts: the first part will be a concert, and the second play with music entitled "When You're in Love." Ticket are 20 cents each. We hope that a great many of the pupils and teachers of the other Unity Centers of the International will come to see the play. Tickets can be secured at the school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and on Saturday night in the Auditorium.

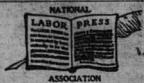
NIKEA TO PLAY AT WAIST-MAKERS' CONCERT

Maurice Nikea, the violinist, will play for the Waistmakers at the closing celebration, at their Unity Center, P. S. No. 40, 320 East 20th Street, Saturday evening, May 15th at 7:30 o'clock. There will be other attractive numbers on the program, including Russian Folk-songs in costume by Ludmilla Torotzka. Pictures of the Unity House at Forest Park, Pa. will be thrown on the screen and explained.

Exhibition and general dancing will follow in the Gymnasium on the top floor. Ice-cream and cake

will add to the general enjoyment of the evening. All members of the Union are urged to come and bring their friends to this last Reunion of the season.

The English Recreation classes are going on as usual and will continue throughout the month of May at least.



CUTTERS' UNION LOCAL 10, ATTENTION.

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETINGS

MISCELLANEOUS:

Monday, May 17th.

GENERAL:

Monday, May 24th.

CLOAK & SUIT

Monday, June 7th.

WAIST & DRESS

Monday, June 14th.

Meetings begin at 7.30 P. M.
AT ARLINGTON HALL, 23 St. Marks Place

Cutters of All Branches

should secure a card when going in to work and return it when laid off. They must also change their cards when securing an increase.

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SCRANTON LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION ORGANIZATION CAMPAIGN

The Ladies Garment Workers' Union, Local 125, of Scranton, Pa. is only nine months old, but it has succeeded in accomplishing many important things, according to the report of Herbert Gross, Corresponding Secretary of that union. During the short period of its existence, Local 125 has done away with the piece work system. It has reduced the working week from 53 hours to 47. It has secured a substantial wage increase.

With the assistance of Brother Lefkowitz, vice president of the International, the Union has signed a new agreement with the employers last week. The new agreement provides a wage increase of 25 per cent for women, and 15 per cent for men; the establishment of the 44-hour week; time and one half for overtime, and the recognition of the Union.

The Ladies Garment Workers' Union is launching an organization campaign in the near future to bring into the ranks of the Union the 2,000 white goods workers. Preparations have already been made for the campaign. The Union is confident that this undertaking will meet with success.

FUR STRIKERS WIN 7 SHOPS

On the third day of the fur workers' strike in defense of their principle that hours should be reduced rather than men discharged in the present slow season, seven shops capitulated and recalled their men, including those who had been laid off Saturday.

This indicates a victory for the men whose strike on Monday came as a swift answer to the 35 bosses who had refused to adjust the over-employment problem in the manner proposed by the union and had laid off 500 men.

The men who returned to work yesterday number about 300, or one-fifth of the total of men who were laid off and those who struck.

The conference committee of the fur industry, which met yesterday to consider the problem presented by the walkout, adjourned without reaching a decision. Another meeting probably will be called by the chairman, Dr. Judah L. Magnes, for Friday.

Union leaders are making every effort to adjust the strike.

LADIES TAILORS' UNION TO REAR CONVENTION REPORT

The Ladies Tailors and Alteration Workers members of Local 84 will have a general membership meeting on Tuesday, May 18th at 7:30 P. M. at Laurel Garden, 75 East 116th St. At this meeting the convention delegates will render their complete reports.

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Local 35, I. L. G. W. U.

SELLS

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COLUMBIA TEA
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EXCLUSIVELY

Members of Local 25

REGISTRATION

for vacation at the

Unity House

is still going on.

But in a few days it may be over.

BE SURE TO REGISTER AT ONCE!

at the headquarters of the Union

16 W. 21st ST. Room A.

or at any branch office.

TO THE LOCALS AND MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL LADIES GARMENT WORKERS' UNION:

To the Rescue

NO FRIEND OF THE RAND SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCE NEEDS TO BE TOLD OF ITS GREAT PERIL AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

- Shofud Senate Bill No. 1,274, which has passed the State Senate and the Assembly, become a law. The Rand School must carry a constitutional fight on behalf of all freedom of education into the courts. Should the Bill not be signed by the Governor and the school have a chance to build up its work, thousands of dollars will be absolutely necessary to cover the financial losses caused by the Lusk Committee's vicious and lying publicity.

You Who Read This RALLY BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE

If you feel you can give one dollar, make it five. If you think ten dollars is your limit, make it twenty-five and send it at once if you want to save your school.

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105 Madison Ave.
Solomon & Matheis,
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Clairmont Waist Co.,
15 West 36th St.
Mack Kanner & Millins,
136 Madison Ave.
M. Stern,
33 East 33rd St.
Max Cohen,
105 Madison Ave.
Julian Waist Co.,
15 East 32nd St.
Dresswell Dress Co.,
14 East 32nd St.
Regina Kohler,
252 Fourth Ave.
Deuts & Ortenberg,
2-16 West 33rd St.
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